Continued from page 12

of all the metropolitan areas. The Boston Area rate at 3.1 percent was up by 0.7 percentage point over the month. A year ago, Boston's rate was also 3.1 percent. The Washington and Boston Areas have had the lowest jobless rates of the major metropolitan areas over a period of more than three years. The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, posted a January rate of 3.7 percent up from 3.6 percent in December. A year ago, the Richmond-Petersburg rate was also 3.7 percent. The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, posted a 4.3 percent jobless rate down by a full percentage point from December. A year ago, Baltimore's rate was 5.3 percent.

Of tne 256 metropolitan areas for which January data are available, 79 had over-the-year decreases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more, and 13 had increases of that magnitude. Forty-three areas had rates below 4 percent, while 38 had rates exceeding 8 percent or higher.

States

When the District of Columbia (with a January preliminary unemployment rate of 5.3 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the twenty-ninth lowest jobless rate in the country. This was five notches below the December standing. Virginia's rate at 4.3 percent was down from the 4 6 percent posted in December. Maryland's rate was down by 0.1 percentage point to 4.0 percent. Virginia and Maryland ranked forty-second and forty-third, respectively, in the standings of the 51 jurisdictions. A year ago, the rates in Virginia and Maryland were 4.4 percent and 5.0 percent, respectively.

Fifteen states reported over-the-year declines of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rate. The largest declines were in West Virginia (3.4 percentage points), Michigan (2.9 points), and Wisconsin (2.0 points). Seven states had over-the-year increases of more than 0.5 percentage point—Alabama, Florida, Hawaii, Mississippi, New York, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

Eight states had January unemployment rates below 4 percent. The states with the lowest rates were New Hampshire (2.9 percent), Rhode Island (3.2 percent), and Vermont (3.3 percent). Seven states had rates of 8 percent or more. The highest rates were in Louisiana (11.8 percent), Alaska (10.4 percent), and Mississippi (9.4 percent).

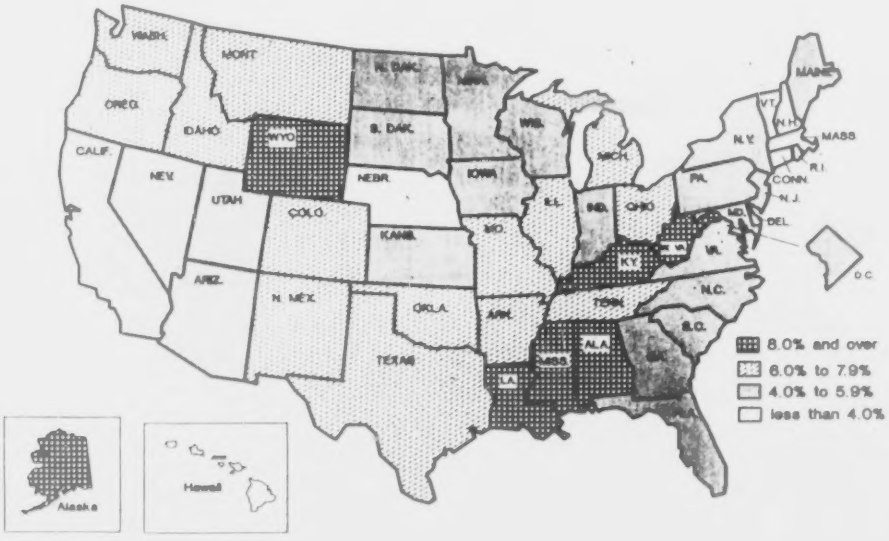
Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a January preliminary rate of 5.3 percent) had the eighth lowest jobless rate. This was one notch below the December standing. In January, the average unemployment rate of all 26 cities was 6.5 percent up from 6.2 percent in December. A year ago, the average rate was 7.8 percent. There were eleven cities including the District of Columbia with rates at 6 percent or below. Baltimore's rate at 6.6 percent was down from the 7.9 percent posted in December. In January 1988, the Baltimore rate was 8.3 percent.

Detroit recorded a jobless rate of 10.9 percent in January. This is the second consecutive month Detroit has reported a double digit unemployment rate. New Orleans posted the second highest jobless rate at 10.3 percent. Buffalo's rate at 9.3 percent was third in line. Gary returned to the single digit group in January, posting a rate of 9.5 percent. Two other cities (Newark and Cleveland) registered unemployment rates above 9 percent—9.3 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively. The lowest rates were in Boston, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Salt Lake City, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles. Each of these six cities had jobless rates between 3 and 5 percent.

Of the 26 selected central cities, sixteen reported over-the-year declines, with the largest being posted by Detroit 3.6 percent, Gary 3.4 percent, Milwaukee 2.9 percent and Salt Lake City 2.4 percent. Only eight cities had over-the-year increases with the largest recorded in Buffalo, 1.1 percent. Cincinnati's and New Orleans' rates were unchanged over the year.

Unemployment Rates by State, January 1989



Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities*

	January	
	1989*	1988
1. Boston, MA	3.5	3.3
2. Salt Lake City, UT	4.4	6.8
3. San Francisco, CA	4.5	4.2
4. Milwaukee, WI	4.5	7.4
5. Pittsburgh, PA	4.7	6.5
6. Los Angeles, CA	4.9	6.3
7. Philadelphia, PA	5.2	6.0
8. District of Columbia	**5.3**	**6.1**
9. New York, NY	5.7	5.3
10. Columbus, OH	5.9	5.7
11. Cincinnati, OH	6.2	6.2
12. Baltimore, MD	6.6	8.3
13. Dallas, TX	6.9	7.3
14. Chicago, IL	6.9	7.6
15. Atlanta, GA	6.9	8.1
16. Houston, TX	7.0	8.6
17. Miami, FL	7.7	6.6
18. Dayton, OH	8.4	9.0
19. Birmingham, AL	8.8	8.9
20. St. Louis, MO	8.9	8.6
21. Cleveland, OH	9.2	9.3
22. Newark, NJ	9.3	9.1
23. Gary, IN	9.5	12.9
24. Buffalo, NY	9.9	8.8
25. New Orleans, LA	10.3	10.3
26. Detroit, MI	10.9	14.5

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

Unemployment Insurance Activities February 1989

There were 3,110 claims filed for unemployment insurance benefits by former employees in the District of Columbia during February 1989—16 percent below January. The drop was expected, as January is a seasonally high month for claims purposes. Compared to February of last year, the claims level was just 2 percent less. This is consistent with the general downward trend established over the past few years for initial claims. The number of weeks claimed and number of weeks compensated rose 5 and 3 percents, respectively, from last month. The rise was expected also in these measures, following the high level of initial claims registered for January. Likewise, the total outlay for benefits rose from $6.5 million to $6.8 million. The increase in the number of weeks compensated was responsible for $201,624 of the jump in outlay. The remainder ($98,549) was attributable to the slight increase (from $189.44 to $192.22) in the average weekly benefit amount.

The February 1989 average weekly benefit amount ($192.22) is the highest on record for the program—also expected. This follows the January 1989 increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount from $268 to $283, and a corresponding higher overall scale of benefits. The average weekly amount as a percent of the maximum in February 1989 is 67.9. This compares to 62.2 in February 1986 following the January change in the maximum weekly amount and corresponding scale of benefit.

The two-month (January-February) benefit outlay in 1989 is $13.3 million. In 1988, the comparable amount was $12.5 million. The rise in outlay is a reflection of the higher level of the average benefit amount and workload activity during the current period. Weeks compensated in 1989 for the two-month period totalled 69,800 compared to 69,600 in 1988.

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Department of Employment Services
Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry Jr., Mayor

Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
February 1989

	Feb. 1989	Jan. 1989	Feb. 1988	% Change From Jan. 1989	% Change From Feb. 1988
State UI Program a/					
Initial Claims Taken	2,944	3,526	3,035	-16.5	-3.0
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	34,906	33,473	36,529	+4.3	-4.4
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	32,759	31,961	33,894	+2.5	-3.3
Total Benefits Paid	$6,231,763	$6,007,600	$6,095,300	+3.7	+2.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$190.23	$187.97	$179.83	+1.2	+5.8
Number of First Payments	1,927	2,189	2,120	-12.0	-9.1
Number of Final Payments	827	879	777	-5.9	+6.4
Total Beneficiaries	9,193	9,282	9,751	-1.0	-5.7
Federal Program b/					
Initial Claims Taken	147	152	102	-3.3	+44.1
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	2,386	2,109	2,191	+13.1	+8.9
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	2,464	2,169	2,013	+13.6	+22.4
Total Benefits Paid	$538,817	$457,206	$381,264	+17.8	+41.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$218.68	$210.79	$189.40	+3.7	+15.5
Number of First Payments	177	158	107	+12.0	+65.4
Number of Final Payments	67	67	55	0.0	+21.8
Total Beneficiaries	705	635	541	+11.0	+30.3
Ex-Servicepersons Program c/					
Initial Claims Taken	21	33	47	-36.4	-55.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	251	285	382	-11.9	-34.3
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	208	237	289	-12.2	-28.0
Total Benefits Paid	$40,017	$45,618	$57,603	-12.3	-30.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$192.39	$192.48	$199.32	-0.0	-3.5
Number of First Payments	13	24	24	-45.8	-45.8
Number of Final Payments	14	13	12	+7.7	+16.7
Total Beneficiaries	66	72	86	-8.3	-23.3
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	3,112	3,711	3,184	-16.1	-2.3
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	37,543	35,867	39,102	+4.7	-4.0
Weeks of Unemployment compensated	35,431	34,367	36,196	+3.1	-2.1
Total Benefits Paid	$6,810,597	$6,510,424	$6,534,167	+4.6	+4.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$192.22	$189.44	$180.52	+1.5	+6.5
Number of First Payments	2,117	2,371	2,251	-10.7	-6.0
Number of Final Payments	908	959	844	-5.3	-7.6
Total Beneficiaries	9,964	9,989	10,378	-0.3	-4.0

a. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).
b. Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).
c. No joint claims.

Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for February 1989 decreased $1.12. Average Weekly Hours dropped .2 hour. Average Hourly Earnings, however, rose slightly by 3 cents.

In the Durable Goods Sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products reflects a drop in Weekly Earnings of $28.12 and a drop in Weekly Hours of 2.3 hours. The Hourly Earnings were down 4 cents. Electric Machinery, Equipment and Supplies shows an increase in Weekly Earnings of $14.63 and an increase of 53 cents in Hourly Earnings due to a pay increase. Other Durable Goods had an overall decline because of a seasonal downturn. Weekly Earnings were down $11.34, Weekly Hours dropped .2 hour, and Hourly Earnings dropped 21 cents.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, Food and Kindred Products had a longer workweek causing Weekly Hours to increase 4.1 hours as the Hourly Earnings decreased 41 cents due to less overtime. Other Non-Durable Goods reflects an increase in Weekly Earnings of $2.87 and a rise in Hourly Earnings of 30 cents. This was due to piece work or higher incentive pay.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
February 1989

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. 1989	Jan. 1989	Feb. 1988	Feb. 1989	Jan. 1989	Feb. 1988	Feb. 1989	Jan. 1989	Feb. 1988
Total Manufacturing	459.76	460.88	423.94	39.6	39.8	39.4	11.61	11.58	10.76
Durable Goods	479.02	486.14	424.42	43.0	43.6	42.4	11.14	11.15	10.01
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	485.48	513.60	465.70	42.4	44.7	44.1	11.45	11.49	10.56
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	501.43	486.80	467.15	40.9	41.5	42.2	12.26	11.73	11.07
Other Durable Goods	468.34	479.77	394.06	44.1	44.3	42.1	10.62	10.83	9.36
Non-Durable Goods	444.54	439.93	424.02	36.8	36.6	37.0	12.08	12.02	11.46
Food & Kindred Products	409.64	382.66	430.67	40.2	36.1	40.1	10.19	10.60	10.74
Printing & Publishing	468.86	466.75	449.23	35.2	35.2	35.4	13.32	13.26	12.69
Other Non-Durable Goods	367.92	365.05	335.36	41.2	42.3	40.6	8.93	8.63	8.26

Total Production Workers	Feb. '89	Jan. '89	Feb. '88
	42,900	43,300	42,900

Note: Data reflects Revision to 1988 Benchmark.

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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR MARCH 1989 JUNE 15, 1989

Unemployment in D.C. Drops in March To 5.7%

Area Job Creation More Rapid Than In U.S.

Labor Force

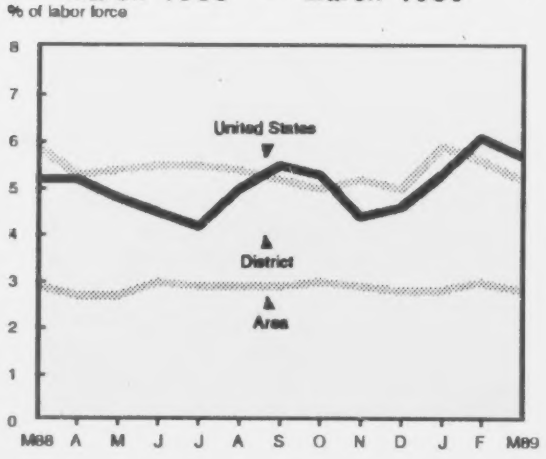
The District

The District's unemployment rate in March declined by nearly a half of a percentage point (0.4) to register 5.7 percent of the labor force. Historically, the rate generally declines in March by an average of 0.1 point. So, this year's decline is larger than average. However, the decline was not generated by employment growth, but by a small shrinkage (2,500 workers) in the labor supply, 1,100 of whom came from the payrolls of employers and 1,500 from the unemployment rolls.

The March rate in the District was five-tenths of a percentage point higher than the 5.2 percent civilian unemployment rate for the U.S.

Compared to March 1988, the District's labor force declined by 6,000 workers, and the number of residents on payrolls decreased by 7,500. At the same time, unemployment was up by 1,100.

Unemployment Rates
March 1988 - March 1989



As a result, the unemployment rate was also up over the year by a half a percentage point—from 5.2 percent in March 1988 to 5.7 percent in March 1989. This March was also the first time in the past seven years that employment did not increase over the year, and the first time in five

Continued on page 3

Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director

The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR MARCH 1989 — JUNE 15, 1989

Contents

Labor Force
- *District* 1
- *Area & Suburbs* 3
- *Characteristics of UI Applicants* 5

Job Growth
- *District* 5
- *Suburbs* 5
- *Area* 6
- *Growth Rates* 9

Special Article
- *Labor Force Profile: 1988 Annual Average for the District, the Suburbs and the Area* 10

Unemployment Rates
- *Metropolitan Areas* 16
- *States* 17
- *Selected Cities* 17

Departments
- *Unemployment Insurance Activities* 19
- *Consumer Price Index* 21
- *Hours & Earnings* 22

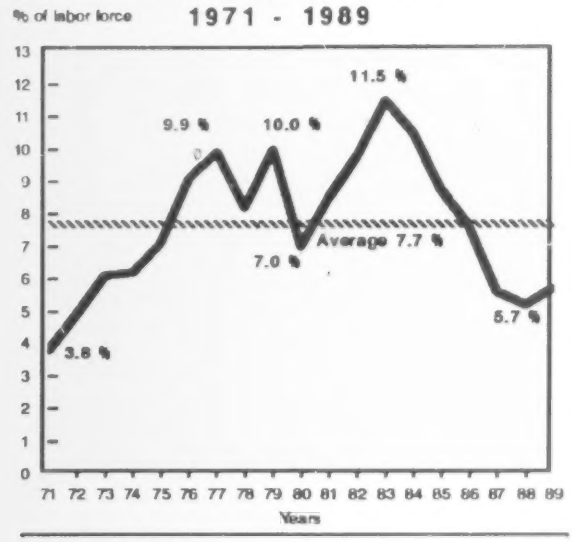
The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson; and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling: (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

Continued from page 1

years that unemployment did not decrease. However, the average unemployment rate for the first quarter of this year was the same as for the first three months of last year—5.7 percent. The annual rate for all of 1988 (5.0 percent) was the lowest rate in the District in 17 years. Thus, the employment picture in the District for this March is somewhat mixed. The labor market could be moving to higher levels of unemployment, or unemployment could continue to drop as more hiring takes place for the tourist season. Still at 5.7 percent, the District's unemployment rate is much below the 18-year average of 7.7 percent for March significantly below the record high of 11.5 percent set in March 1983.

District Unemployment Rates In the Month of March



The Area & Suburbs

Unlike in the District, the suburban labor force added 10,100 new workers between February and March, but as has been the recent case, employment growth at 12,300 out paced that of the labor force. Consequently, joblessness among people living in the suburbs declined in March by 2,000 workers and the unemployment rate tightened slightly (0.1 percentage point) dropping the suburban rate to 2.3 percent.

The same basic pattern occurred over the year. Employment grew faster than the number of new workers entering the job market. Thus, the local economy was able to absorb all 66,300 new workers and remove an additional 1,400 more from the unemployment rolls. Compared to last year, the suburban labor market is even tighter than at the same time last year.

Because of the much larger suburban labor force, the March statistics for the whole Area also showed employment expanding faster than the labor force. As a consequence, the Area's pool of unemployed contracted, both over the month and over the year. For the Metropolitan Area, the unemployment rate declined by another tenth of a percentage point over the month and two-tenths over the year. At 2.8 percent of the Area's available labor supply, the rate signals a continuation of a local labor shortage.

Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	Mar. a/ 1989	Feb. b/ 1989	Mar. b/ 1988
District of Columbia	5.7	6.1	5.2
Calvert County	4.3	4.3	4.5
Frederick County	3.5	4.1	3.8
Prince Georges County	3.2	3.2	3.5
Charles County	2.8	2.7	3.2
Alexandria City	2.2	2.3	2.1
Montgomery County	2.2	2.2	2.4
Stafford County	2.1	2.6	2.4
Prince William County	1.9	2.2	2.0
Arlington County	1.9	2.0	1.7
Falls Church City	1.8	2.0	2.0
Manassas City	1.7	1.8	1.9
Fairfax City	1.6	2.0	1.4
Fairfax County	1.6	1.8	1.6
Loudoun County	1.6	1.7	1.6
Manassas Park City	1.3	1.5	1.4

a/ Preliminary.
b/ Revised.
SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
March 1989 [a]

	Mar. [b] 1989	Feb. [c] 1989	Mar. [d] 1988	Feb. [d] 1988	Net Change From Feb. 1989	Net Change From Mar. 1988
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	329,600	332,100	335,600	334,900	-2,500	-6,000
Total Employed	310,900	312,000	318,100	315,300	-1,100	-7,200
Total Unemployed	18,600	20,100	17,400	19,500	-1,500	1,200
Unemployment Rate [e]	5.7	6.1	5.2	5.8	-0.4	0.5
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,885,100	1,875,000	1,818,800	1,796,800	10,100	66,300
Total Employed	1,841,700	1,829,400	1,774,000	1,750,400	12,300	67,700
Total Unemployed	43,500	45,500	44,900	46,400	-2,000	-1,400
Unemployment Rate [e]	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	-0.1	-0.2
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,214,700	2,207,100	2,154,400	2,131,700	7,600	60,300
Total Employed	2,152,600	2,141,400	2,092,100	2,065,700	11,200	60,500
Total Unemployed	62,100	65,600	62,300	65,900	-3,500	-200
Unemployment Rate [e]	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.1	-0.2	-0.1

a Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding. b. Preliminary. c. Revised.
d. Data reflects Benchmark Revisions. e. Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
March 1988 & March 1989

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
		March 1989	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	14.9	14.4	30.0
Suburbs	85.1	85.6	70.0
		March 1988	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	15.6	15.2	27.9
Suburbs	84.4	84.8	72.1

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits totaled 9,772 in March 1989—down 234 claimants from February. In March, 55 percent of all UI recipients were males. Occupationally, professional, technical and managerial workers accounted for 26 percent of the total claimants. This was followed by clerical and sales with 24 percent. Service workers ranked third accounting for 19 percent of the claimants.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 10.0 weeks for all claimants in March up from 9.4 weeks reported in February. Over the month, the duration for males increased from 9.1 weeks to 9.9 weeks, while that for females also increased from 9.8 weeks to 10.1 weeks. In March 1988, the average duration for males was 9.9 weeks and 10.1 weeks for females.

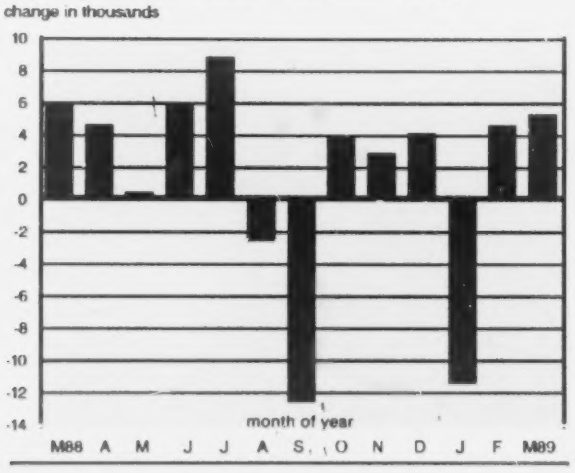
Job Growth

The District

The number of jobs in the District increased by 5,400 for a gain of 0.8 percent between February and March. The private sector accounted for 74 percent of the growth with gains in Services (3,000 jobs) and Retail Trade (700 jobs). The Services growth was primarily concentrated in Hotels (900 jobs), Business Services (800 jobs) and All Other Services (600 jobs), while the Trade growth occurred in Eating and Drinking Places (500 jobs). In the public sector, growth in both Federal Government (800 jobs) and State and Local Government (600 jobs) produced public sector growth of 0.4 percent.

Over the year (March 1988 to March 1989), the number of District jobs increased 2.2 percent for a gain of 14,600 jobs. **The private sector grew at a rate of 3.0 percent, generating 11,800 jobs and accounting for 81 percent of total growth.** The leading job producer, Services, contributed 10,800 jobs and accounted for 74 percent of all new jobs. The major components of Services growth were Business Services (3,900 jobs), All Other Services (2,700 jobs) and Legal Services (2,300 jobs). An additional 1,600 private sector jobs were generated by Wholesale and Retail Trade. The public sector grew at a rate of 1.0 percent with gains in both Federal Government (2,800 jobs) and State and Local Government (400 jobs).

Monthly Job Growth
The District
March 1988 - March 1989



The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs increased 0.8 percent for a gain of 12,400 jobs between February and March. The private sector accounted for 89 percent of the growth with gains primarily in Services (4,100 jobs), Construction (3,600 jobs) and Trade (2,300 jobs). The Virginia suburbs were responsible for 63 and 83 percent of the respective growth in Services and Trade, while two-thirds of the Construction growth was concentrated in the Maryland suburbs.

The public sector gained 1,400 jobs with growth in both State and Local Government (1,200 jobs) and Federal Government (300 jobs). State and Local Government growth was equally divided between the two areas while two-thirds of the Federal growth occurred in the Maryland suburbs.

Over the year (March 1988 to March 1989),

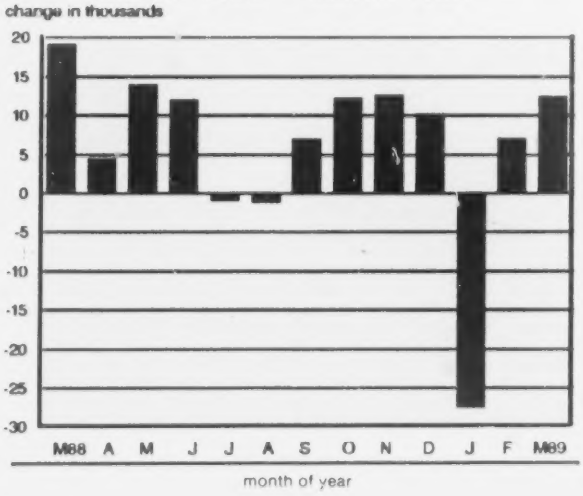
Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

suburban jobs grew at a rate of 4.3 percent for a gain of 62,500 jobs. **The Virginia suburbs grew at a rate of 5.9 percent accounting for 69 percent of suburban growth while the Maryland suburbs increased at a more modest rate of 2.6 percent. The Virginia suburbs having held the lead in number of total jobs for the first quarter of 1989, appears likely to surpass Maryland this year as the area with the greatest number of suburban jobs.**

The private sector accounted for 81 percent of all new suburban jobs with the primary job producers, Services (23,300 jobs) and Construction (9,000 jobs), responsible for 63 percent of private sector growth. Eighty-one percent of the Services growth and 90 percent of the Construction growth occurred in the Virginia suburbs. The Virginia suburbs were also responsible for 63 percent of the growth in Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (8,800 jobs), Trade (6,100 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (3,900 jobs).

Monthly Job Growth
The Suburbs
March 1988 - March 1989



In the public sector, substantial growth in State and Local Government (10,500 jobs) and a gain in Federal Government (1,200 jobs) resulted in over-the-year growth of 3.9 percent.

The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area gained 17,900 jobs between February and March for an increase of 0.8 percent. The private sector was responsible for 84 percent of the growth with gains primarily in Services (7,000 jobs), Construction (3,900 jobs) and Trade (3,100 jobs).

The public sector increased by 0.5 percent with gains in both State and Local Government (1,800 jobs) and Federal Government (1,100 jobs).

Over the year (March 1988 to March 1989), the Area grew at a rate of 3.6 percent for a gain of 77,100 jobs. The private sector grew at a rate of 4.0 percent, generating 62,700 jobs and producing 81 percent of all new area jobs. The leading job contributor, Services (34,100 jobs), was responsible for 54 percent of all new private sector jobs. Strong growth also occurred in Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (9,000 jobs) and Construction (8,400

Continued on page 8

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